

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Fishery Notice

Category(s):

ABORIGINAL - General Information
AQUACULTURE - Shellfish
COMMERCIAL - General Information
COMMERCIAL - Invertebrates: Clam - Intertidal
COMMERCIAL - Invertebrates: Clam - Razor
COMMERCIAL - Invertebrates: Oyster
General Information
Licensing Information
RECREATIONAL - General Information

Subject:

FN1142-Reminder of Requirements for Legal Sourcing and Harvest of Bivalve Shellfish

The safety of consumers is a top priority for the Government of Canada. The reputation of Canada's food supply is a responsibility shared by all parties, including industry and federal and provincial governments.

As partners for delivery of the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) collaborate to prevent illegal harvesting and selling of bivalve shellfish, including suspected laundering of illegal products through legitimate aquaculture businesses. DFO also remains committed to meeting conservation objectives for bivalves as well as supporting priority for Food, Social and Ceremonial fisheries. Any harvest occurring in conflict with established management measures and controls has the potential of negatively impacting the conservation of bivalve populations.

DFO will investigate reports of illegal harvesting violations and will take appropriate enforcement actions, including prosecution. Furthermore, DFO may consider more restrictive management approaches if needed to protect public health. Commercial growers and harvesters are reminded that they are required by law, to follow specific record-keeping and tagging requirements. Records of shellfish movement through the growing cycle and to the point of distribution provide evidence to support public health, regulatory decisions and closure recommendations.

Commercial harvesters and aquaculture operators are required to:

- Understand and abide by the conditions of licence;
- Keep complete, clear and legible records and be able to produce them to a DFO fishery officer when requested;
- Ensure bivalve product destined for market sale is appropriately tagged with complete and accurate harvest information and is processed by an operator licenced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to process shellfish;
- Harvest only from open and approved areas and check our website before heading

out for the latest information (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/CheckBeforeYouHarvest)



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If you are aware of illegal bivalve harvest activities and/or are aware of violations, please call the DFO Observe, Record and Report (ORR) phone line at 1-800-465-4336.

CFIA is reminding licenced shellfish operators that they are required to obtain shellfish from approved sources in open status. Written preventive control plans (PCP) must demonstrate that adequate controls are in place to control food safety hazards, including demonstrating that incoming shellfish are sourced and harvested legally.

CFIA inspectors verify PCP controls, including bivalve sourcing, as well as traceability documents and labels. A licence issued under the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations may be suspended if:

- the licence holder does not comply with the Safe Food for Canadians Act or Regulations, or the Food and Drugs Act or the Food and Drug Regulations,
- there is a default in payment of fees or
- in the Minister's opinion there is a risk of injury to human health if the licence holder continues to conduct an activity identified in its licence.

Licence suspensions are subject to public disclosure.

More information on the policies and criteria for harvesting shellfish can be found in the CSSP manual.

We look forward to your cooperation on this matter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Wild Resource Management:

Juanita Rogers - Program Coordinator, Invertebrates - South Coast Area, 250-757268

Aquaculture Resource Management:

Gabrielle Kosmider - Senior Shellfish Aquaculture Management Coordinator, 250-754-0404

Fisheries & Oceans Operations Center - FN1142

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